<u>What is Claimed is:</u>

1.   A method permitting medical patients to periodically enter into a computer and view test result data from the patient's medical tests and to readily analyze the history of and trends in the data over periods of time, said method comprising the steps of:

     (a)   defining predetermined tests performed on the patient;

     (b)   categorizing said predetermined tests into defined test types;

     (c)   creating a flow sheet having an array of data cells for receiving test data, said array being dividable into portions and sub-portions of said portions;

     (d)   assigning said portions of said array to respective defined test types;

     (e)   assigning said predetermined tests to sub-portions of the array portions assigned to the defined test type into which the predetermined tests are categorized in step (b);

     (f)   entering into the computer test result data from medical test performed on the patient;

     (g)   allocating the test result data entered in step (f) to appropriate tests of said predetermined tests;

     (h)   entering into the computer date of test information for the test result data entered in step (f);

     (i)   transferring the data entered in step (f) to sub-portions of said array assigned to said appropriate tests for the entered data and labeling the transferred data on said flow sheet with said date of entry information;

     (j)   selectively displaying on said flow sheet the entered test result data and positioning the displayed test result data in said portions and sub-portions assigned to the defined test types and predetermined tests to which the test result is allocated; and

     (k)   displaying along with the test result data displayed in step (j) the date of test information entered in step (h) for the displayed test result data;

     whereby the display on the flow sheet presents a visual history by date of test of all of the displayed test results for each predetermined test.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

     (l)   inhibiting display of test result data in step (j) unless and until date of test information for that test result data has been entered in step (h)

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1   3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

2   (m)   establishing for at least some of said predetermined tests at least one range

3 bounding value of test result data; and

4   (n)   providing on said flow sheet a visual out of range indication for each displayed

5 test result value that is beyond said range-bounding value.

1   4.   The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

2   (m)   establishing for at least some of said predetermined tests an upper normal range

3 value and a lower normal range value; and

4   (n)   providing on said flow sheet a visual out of range indication for each displayed

5 test result value that exceeds said upper normal range value or is less than said lower normal

6 range value.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein step (n) comprises providing an identifiable color

2 in a data cell.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 wherein step (c) comprises creating said array in the form

2 of a matrix of columns and rows of said data cells.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 wherein:

2   step (d) comprises allocating said portions of said array to respective groups of columns

3 of said matrix;

4   step (e) comprises allocating sub-portions of said array portions to respective columns in

5 the a group of columns; and

6   step (j) comprises displaying test result data for each date of test in a common row of said

7 matrix.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

2   (m)   establishing for at least some of said predetermined tests an upper normal range

3 value and a lower normal range value; and

4   (n)   providing on said flow sheet a visual out of range indication for each displayed

5 test result value that exceeds said upper normal range value or is less than said lower normal

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6   range value.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein step (n) comprises providing an identifiable color

2   in at least one of a data cell, report cell and graphical chart bar.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) comprises creating said array in the form

2   of a matrix of columns and rows of said data cells.

1   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein:

2   step (d) comprises allocating said portions of said array to respective groups of columns

3   of said matrix;

4   step (e) comprises allocating sub-portions of said array portions to respective columns in

5   the a group of columns; and

6   step (j) comprises displaying test result data for each date of test in a common row of said

7   matrix.

1   12.   A computer apparatus for organizing personal test results for a medical patient for

2   viewing and analysis:

3   a patient flow sheet module for building a flow sheet containing an array of data cells

4   configured to receive information pertaining to a plurality of tests;

5   a test type definition module for selectively defining at least one defined test type;

6   a test definition module for selectively defining a plurality of specified tests and

7   associating each specified test with one of said defined test types;

8   a test selection module for selecting a plurality of specified tests and assigning the

9   specified tests to the patient flow sheet, thereby defining a prescribed battery of tests within the

10   flow sheet; and

11   a date-of-test module for associating a test date with said prescribed battery of tests.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

2   means for initially inhibiting entry of test results into the patient flow sheet; and

3   means responsive to said date-of-test module associating at least one test date with each

4   prescribed battery of tests for enabling entry of test results for said each prescribed battery of

5   tests into the patient flow sheet.

1   14.   A computer apparatus for organizing personal test results for a medical patient for
2   viewing and analysis:
3   a patient flow sheet module for permitting the patient to build a flow sheet containing an
4   array of data cells configured to receive information pertaining to a plurality of tests;
5   a test type definition module for permitting the patient to define at least one defined test
6   type;
7   a test definition module for permitting the patient to define a plurality of specified tests
8   and associate each specified test with one of said defined test types;
9   a test selection module for permitting the patient to select a plurality of said specified
10   tests and assign the selected specified tests to the patient flow sheet, thereby defining a
11   prescribed battery of tests within the flow sheet; and
12   a date-of-test module for permitting the patient to associate a test date with said
13   prescribed battery of tests for entry into the data cells of said flow sheet.

1   15.   A method for organizing, in a computer, personal test results for a medical patient
2   for viewing and analysis, said method comprising the steps of:
3   (a)   providing an empty flow sheet for receiving information;
4   (b)   defining at least one defined test type;
5   (c)   establishing a plurality of specified tests and associating each of the plurality of
6   specified tests with said defined test types;
7   (d)   assigning a plurality of specified tests to the empty flow sheet to thereby define a
8   prescribed battery of tests within the flow sheet;
9   (e)   associating a date of test with said prescribed battery of tests; and
10   (f)   entering test result data for said prescribed battery of tests for each date of test
11   associated with the prescribed battery of tests.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of inhibiting the entering of
2   result data in step (f) unless and until a date of test is associated with the prescribed battery of
3   tests for the data to be entered.

1   17.   The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of directing the patient to the

2   next logical step in the method by enabling only options that are applicable to the step in the

3   method currently being performed.

1   18.   The method of claim 15 further comprising the step selectively providing

2   graphical chart displays of test result data entered in step (f) for any of said specified tests as a

3   function of date of test.